and distribution losses, implementation of appropriate demand management and energy conservation measures, arranging requisite quantity and quality of coal for thermal power stations expeditious repairs of units under forced outages, early stabilisation of newly commissioned units, arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas and effective functioning of regional power grids.

(c) Through captive power generating facilities, an industrial unit is able to meet its power/energy requirement, either wholly or partially, during periods when the power/energy is not available from the grid

Pricing Policy of LPG

1488 SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the pricing policy of LPG for domestic and commercial use;

(b) whether the price difference has given rise to certain malpractices; if so, what remedial measures have been taken by Government; and

(c) what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Price for LPG used for domestic use has been subsidised in order to wean away consumers from use of kerosene which is meant to be used by the vulnerable sections of the society for illumination and cooking purposes. Consequently, no subsidy is being given in respect of use of LPG for non-domestic or industrial purposes.

(b) and (c) The following steps have been taken to prevent malpractices:

(1) Colour banding of cylinders meant for non-domestic use.

(2) Identification of non-domestic consumers.

(3) Supply of cylinders of different size for non-domestic use wherever possible.

(4) Maintenance of separate registers at the dealers level in respect of domestic and non-domestic consumers.

(5) Placement of separate indents for domestic and non-domestic cylinders by the dealers.

(6) Adequate number of inspections by each field officer of non-domestic customers.

(7) Promulgation of the Liquified Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 1988.

The steps taken so far have shown favourable results.

Clearance of Industrial Projects of West Bengal Government by the Central Government

1489. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the particulars of the industrial projects submitted by West Bengal Government which are yet to be cleared by the Central Government;

(b) when these projects were sent to the Central Government for approval;

(c) by when these projects are expected to be cleared;

(d) whether it is a fact that a number of industrial projects submitted by the West Bengal Government have been rejected by the Central Government; and

(e) if so, on what grounds?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (e) Out of a total of 21 Industrial Licence applications received from the various West Bengal State Government undertakings during the calendar years 1985 to 1988 (upto 2-8-1988), 12 applications have already been approved and necessary letters of

intent issued to the undertakings concerned. Of the remaining 9 applications, 7 have been rejected/otherwise disposed of and the rest 2 which were recently received are being processed. These two applications are for manufacture of Electronic Power Supply System and Solar Cells. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to dispose of applications within the prescribed time frame. The appications were rejected mainly on the grounds of capacity constraints and also for the reasons that the proposals were not well formulated and were not in accordance with the existing policy guidelines.

Customs duty on imported capital goods

1490. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had recently stated that Customs duty on imported capital goods should be lowered substantially;

(b) whether any such proposal is being considered and if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 90 per cent customs duty at present levied on capital goods doubles the cost of the capital projects and the interest rates being much higher ultimately results in accelerating the capital cost of the projects; and

(d) whether there is any developing or developed country where customs duty on capital goods is so high; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No proposal is under consideration.

(c) The customs duty rate of 90 per cent is applicable only in case of general projects. Special concessional rate of customs duty is levied at the rate of 15 per cent in case of fertilizer projects, 25 per cent to 35 per cent in case of power projects and 30 per cent in case of electronic projects. In addition, a large number of machinery items exceeding 1150 in number, which have no indigenous angle are placed under OGL and subject to a concessional duty ranging from nil to 55 per cent. The interest rates are fixed reasonably with reference to the cost of raising funds and therefore they are not high.

(d) The comparative information of customs duties for developed and developing countries is not maintained in this Ministry.

Companies of business houses/groups inspected under Companies Act

1491. DR. G. VIJAY MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of business houses or groups which have been inspected under Section 209A of the Companies Act during the period from 1st June, 1987 to 30th June, 1988;

(b) whether all the companies of such business houses/groups have been inspected, or the inspection was only of some of the companies of such groups;

(c) what are the names of business houses/groups, where all the companies have been inspected; and

(d) what is the number of prosecutions launched pursuant to such inspections?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d) Business houses or groups have not been defined under the Companies Act 1956. It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to companies registered under Section 26 of the MRTP Act and belonging to large industrial houses each with assets of Rs. 100 crores or over. Inspection under Section 209A of the Companies Act was conducted during the said period in respect of some companies belonging to 12 such large industrial houses. No prosecutions have been launched so far pursuant to these inspections.